

North Carolina's Race to the Top Initiatives: *An Evaluation Update*

Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee
October 7, 2014

Overview

- NC Race to the Top (RttT) was designed to increase students' success by addressing four pillars:
 - Great Teacher and Leaders
 - Turning Around Lowest Achieving Schools
 - Standards and Assessments
 - Data Systems to Support Instruction

1. Organization of the Evaluation

- **Teacher and leader effectiveness**
 - 1) Integration of value-added student achievement measures into educator evaluation system; 2) Incentives
- **Equitable supply and distribution of teachers and leaders**
 - 3) TFA & NC Teacher Corps; 4) Regional Leadership Academies; 5) New Teacher Support Program; 6) VPS blending courses; 7) Strategic Staffing
- **Professional development**
 - 8) All professional development activities in support of RttT initiatives, including: PD for standards and assessment, Home Base, and data use; and PD delivery local capacity-building efforts

1. Organization of the Evaluation

- **Turnaround of low-achieving schools**
9) Low-achieving schools and LEAs; 10) STEM schools
- **Local-level implementation and spending on *RttT***
11) Allocation of RttT funds, cost savings, & NC Education Cloud
- **Overall impact** of RttT on students, teachers, and school leaders

Major Evaluation Questions

Formative Feedback

How can initiative teams improve their work?

Short-Term Outcomes

Has RttT enhanced NC's capacity to have an effective education workforce?

Longer-Term Outcomes:

How did RttT impact student and teacher performance?

Recommendations:

What initiatives show promise for continued impact?

2. Evaluation Progress

Evaluation Strand		Reports Posted or Submitted, to Date
Effective Teachers & Leaders	Teacher and Leader Evaluation	3 of 4
	Incentives	2 of 2
Supply and Distribution of Teachers and Leaders	Teacher Quality Distribution	1 of 2
	Regional Leadership Academies	4 of 4
	Strategic Staffing	3 of 3
	North Carolina Teacher Corps	3 of 3
	New Teacher Support Program	2 of 3
	NC Virtual Public School Blended STEM Courses	3 of 3
Professional Development		10 of 11
District & School Transformation	Turning Around Lowest-Achieving Schools	4 of 5
	STEM Anchor and Affinity Schools	4 of 4
Local Spending		2 of 3
Overall Evaluation		3 of 4
Total:		42 of 49

3. Data Needed to Complete Evaluations

- 2013-14 student testing results before Nov. 1.
- Additional field data from District and School Transformation sites

4. Outcomes: Major Metrics

Indicators	2009-10	2013-14	2013-14 Target
1. Student Achievement 4 th Grade Reading Proficiency	71.6%	63.5%*	83.6%^
1. Student Achievement 4 th Grade Math Proficiency	83.0%	78.0%*	91.0%^
1. Student Achievement 8 th Grade Reading Proficiency	69.5%	72.0%*	81.5%^
1. Student Achievement 8 th Grade Math Proficiency	83.9%	79.0%*	95.9%^
2. Graduation Rate (4-yr)	74.2%	83.8%	85.0%
3. College Readiness: AP Exams > 3 (2012-13) [#]	57.6% (92,334 tests)	61.4% [#] (93,911 tests)	66.0%
3. College Readiness: Average ACT Composite	(N/A)	18.5	18.4
4. High School Grads Enrolling in Post-Secondary Educ.	66.0%	66.9%	72.0%

* Preliminary conversion of scores from new assessments to approximate scores on pre-2012 assessments

^ Original targets based on pre-2012 assessments; to be re-calibrated to align with new assessments

4. Outcomes: Accomplishments

1. Added value-added measures of student learning to the educator evaluation system
2. Implemented new curriculum standards
3. Supported placement of **476** TFA corps members in Eastern North Carolina and recruited and trained **114** NC Teacher Corps members
4. Created 3 Regional Leadership Academies that prepared **178** educators to serve as turnaround leaders in low-performing schools.
5. Provided professional development programs for **634** principals and **343** assistant principals, focused on preparing change leaders.

4. Outcomes: Accomplishments

6. Provided support for **433** new teachers in low-performing schools.
7. Provided training and resources for local PD leaders from all **115** LEAs and several charter school to strengthen local PD programs.
8. Provided face-to-face, online, and blended professional development that addressed RttT goals and State priorities to a large majority of the **100,000+** educators in North Carolina.
9. Expanded supports for low-performing schools and districts; of the originally-identified lowest-performing schools, **74%** have met or exceeded growth expectations, and all high schools with low (<**60%**) graduation rates have gained **10+** percentage points.
10. Created **20** STEM schools focused on key workforce need areas and created a rubric to assess progress of STEM schools.

4. Outcomes: Accomplishments

11. Explored multiple strategic staffing models with lessons learned to inform future initiatives.
12. Implemented Home Base system to provide data, instructional resources and management functions; working through initial implementation challenges.
13. Supported progress on local technology resources.
14. Created the Education Cloud, which is helping to provide equitable access to online resources throughout the State.
15. Prepared NC to maximize return from the “modernized” E-Rate program to support internal Wi-Fi infrastructure in all schools.

Next Steps & Final Words

- Final impact evaluations will provide additional evidence about the extent to which RttT initiatives have moved North Carolina forward in reaching ambitious goals for students and their teachers and school leaders.
- Much was accomplished, much was learned, and much remains to be done.

CERE-NC Reports:

<http://cerenc.org>